Reservation to Valmiki Community

4512. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA :

SHRI AMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Valmiki Community which is one third of Scheduled Caste Community has not been able to avail of the benefit of reservation of Government Services and majority of them are still illiterate and live in abject poverty;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to allot separate quota in the reservation for SC; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MTNISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Information in regard to the extent to which Reservation benefits have been availed of by the Valmiki Community is not maintained separately.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal for Port-Based steel plants in Orissa

4513. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether government have a proposal to set up a port-based steel plant at Paradeep and another port-based steel plant at Gopalpur in Orissa;

(b) if so, the stages at which these two proposals are pending;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of these two proposals; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The Union Government at present have no proposal to set up any port-based steel plant anywhere in Orissa. However, Government of Orissa

have informed that while they have received no proposal to set up a steel plant at paradeep, they have received one proposal from Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (TISCO) for setting up of a port-based steel plant at Gopalpur in the Distt. of Ganjam in Orissa.

(b) to (d) Government of Orissa have informed that they have been reviewing the progress/problems/issues of TISCO's steel plant on monthly basis to ensure its timely implementation. Details of steps taken or being taken towards the implementation of this project are as under :—

* 3748.246 acres of land has already been handed over to the company for construction of the steel plant and rehabilitation colony.

* Construction of boundary wall and levelling of the ground are in progress.

* A rehabilitation colony has been developed by TISCO in the outskirts of Berhampur City where 697 families have already shifted.

* Government of Orissa has approached the Union Government for allotment of additional funds to complete the Daitari—Banaspani rail-link early.

* Proposal for environment clearance for Pipalpanka Dam Project has been submitted to Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.

* Revised proposal for forest clearance is under preparation by the Company.

* Application for grant of mining lease for iron ore for the said steel plant has been recommended by the State Government to Union Government for its approval.

Production cost of Steel

†4514. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the unit-wise production cost of steel;

(b) the total amount of tax imposed on steel;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.